NEA

Depot Town Rag

Volume 17, Number 3 *"All the news in one block in one month.*

100% FREE
Rag Content
March 1994

Annual drum-thumping
M. Monroe • New angle
Frog-fest • Caboose ready
Spring's Quarterly Meeting
Secrets • Boutiques
Geezers & Geeks
and other strictly local stuff. . . .

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

St. Pat's Day will see another one at noon, Thursday, 17 March

The first official parade anyone can prove down here was documented in the 1893 photo of the 'Abe Lincoln log cabin float' passing in front of the crossing guard tower. Looking west from River Street, the facades of the buildings on the south side of East Cross Street looked much as they do today. Architects and designers used the estimated height of the man in the middle ground and hollyhocks growing by the tracks to estimate the proportions of the Crossing Guard Tower in the background when it was replicated 100 years later.

- **Memorial Day's event is not a parade;** it's a procession. Stopping on the Cross Street Bridge, the solemn tribute to the war dead then continues on to Highland Cemetery on the north edge of town.
- **Fourth of July Parade** sometimes made its way to the district but, most years, it's a downtown Michigan Avenue event. Flags still fly around the depot, nonetheless.
- **The Heritage Parade,** one of the city's newest, came down here a couple of times, but most agreed it was too obtrusive upon all the other activities for that August weekend. Now it breaks up at the top of the hill and the activity just spills over into Depot Town.
- **Several Victorian Holidays** were kicked off with parades, the last being billed as the 'world's shortest,' lining up in Riverside Park and continuing to the railroad tracks. It was so cold that year that nearly everyone agreed it was plenty long enough.
- **Now comes the St. Patrick's Day Parade,** said by Dave French of the Gaelic League of Ypsilanti to be "the only one in Michigan that's held on the actual day."

This procession will assemble on the Eastern Michigan University campus and buck the traffic of Ypsilanti's longest one-way street from the Water Tower to Depot Town. "There will be bands, floats, dancers and prizes," says Judi Monaghan, parade chair and Depot Town Association president.

It's the same old story every spring down here . . .

Prettier than ever, the old district awaits our loving attention again

"The block has never looked nicer," say our many admirers. And they're right. Last building season saw many facadés painted, countless new colorful canvas awnings go up, signs replaced and antiquified to fit our homey, corny, hometown style, and enough street traffic to convince a developer this would be a good place for another off-price mall. As the snow melts and the ice disappears from a difficult winter, old hands at rehabbing old buildings know all this means one thing - it's time to start all over again!

Sitting in a sunny window with a view across the street this month only serves to remind us that we'll soon be out there on a ladder again, scraping, priming and painting these old structures when the building season gets into full swing. Now is the time to put those plans on paper and get the proposals through the Historic District Commission at City Hall.

So, too, is this the time of year to peruse the seed catalogs and decide what's going into the district's many flower gardens. Every year sees a plethora of colorful blossoms - always accompanied by a counter-committee of folks to tell the gardeners they've done it all wrong: the colors don't work, the shade plants are getting too much sun, and they're getting watered all wrong (too much, too little - it doesn't matter to them. It's just wrong).

Plans for the summer's festivals are set to bring thousands of old and new friends to the block, whether they're looking for planting in April, antique street rods in May, authentic jazz in June, sidewalk cafés in July, living history in August, antiquing in September, or the farmer's Fall Fair in October. This is a commercial shopping district that is easily taken for granted by the *tourista* of the Twentieth Century, but locals know it takes a great deal of time and effort to make these delightful occurrances occur.

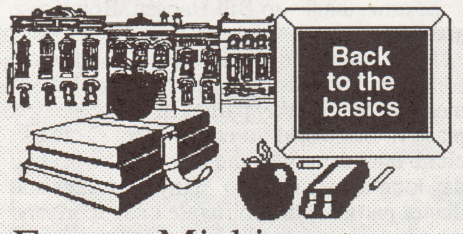
Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town missed out on all the 'progress' that plagued most of the rest of the midwest urban landscape, and today's clientele is glad to see The Old Ways preserved down here. Only Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm could think that it all just happened automatically, as if such promotions just dropped off the back of the turnip wagon on the way to the depot.

Some of the best things we plant this time of year in Depot Town are new ideas. We have a perfect growing climate for them in this block.

First of America installs ATM money machine

Ypsi's first bank was founded down at the depot: Benjamin Follett's endeavor was described by the state's first governor as the "only safe bank in the Michigan Territory." That was before federal currency existed, and each state made its own money. The bank in Depot Town's Follett House (now the west end of Remington-Walker Design Associates) eventually moved downtown, became the National Bank of Ypsilanti, then merged with Bank One.

DT entreprenuers, Sandee and Bill French developed the west end of Old Town Café/ Cady's Grill and have rented the facadé to Bank America for this neighborhood's first ATM (automatic-get-your-money-any-time you-need-it-machine). Demographers note this is a sign of true resurgence of the economy - when such technology keeps the bucks rolling around the district. We've arrived!

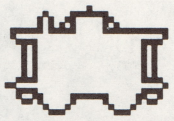


Eastern Michigan to open Continuing Ed. center

After years of sending their students down to the depot to practice their educational theory on historic preservation, story-telling, architectural history, economics or business, Eastern Michigan University has finally put its classroom where its subject matter is - in the heart of Depot Town.

Following the move of the College of Business to the Owen Building in downtown Ypsilanti, EMU announces the creation of a Continuing Education classroom in the west bay of the Old Town Café - Cady's Grill complex.

Ready again, one more time



[Editor's note: We lied - as we often do, when someone tells us it's a *fait accompli* and 'the job will be done' by the time this little monthly *Rag* comes out. We've been burned before (see five - count 'em - five! reports over the years of a plan for a classy restuarant in the abandoned depot. Hoo ha! Is our face red!) and we've become case hardened to such optimistic posturing over the years. Why, we even succumbed to publishing what we thought were Even More Obvious Lies just for *balance*. On several successive April Fools' Days we blatantly announced the old depot was going to be turned into a McDonald's hamburger stand and another time we carried a drawing of the district covered by a huge inflatable dome. A few of our readers believed those stories, too.

Then we got into a project we thought we could handle: the authentic restoration of the district's much-loved hundred-year-old Grand Trunk Western caboose. The Depot Town DDA could pay the costs and bids were sought. The winner of the lowest bid was so optimistic (there's that word again) that locals were sure they'd be back in the caboose for last year's Frog Island Jazz Fest. But it didn't happen.

Meanwhile, DTA meetings were difficult to find this year, and the closing of the caboose is certainly a factor here. The floating meeting places since president Monaghan's election have been warm and cozy, but anyone seeking their first session would have to float between the three loyal hosts - Sidetrack Bar & Grill, Old Town Café and The Daily Grind.

Get ready: we're coming to the end of an "editor's note" that could well be the preface to James Joyce's *Ullysses*.]

The Old Caboose is now ready for your use - thanks to the ministrations of the members of the DT Antique Engine Club who cleaned up the interior and carted off all the left-overs from the crossing guard tower project to their barn up at the Pizza Farm.

As with many places in older neighborhoods, the caboose, in its short stay in the district, became the depository of exotic memorabilia: newspapers, dishes, a chandelier, kids' art, holiday momentos, snapshots, unanswered mail and an assortment of unpaid bills. It's all gone now, thanks to Bill Hansen, Bob Kruse and others.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the Engine Clubbers, local boards will have a place to meet. Kids' birthday parties have the 'neatest place in the world' to congregate. Tots can climb onto the porch and crank that wheel all day long if they want to. Tiny weddings and dinner parties will proliferate once more and the whole world can be happy again.

Call Gary McKeever at 483-4256 to reserve DTA's Old Caboose for your event.

A new *angle* on things down here: Parker pens note

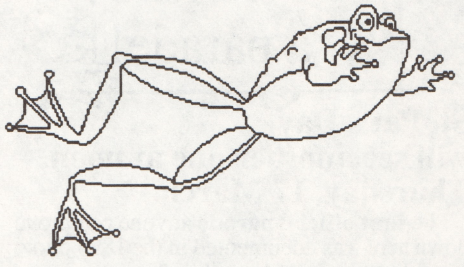
Saturday, 5 February, saw the good old days return to Depot Town once more. The first arrivals on the street had angle parked somewhere between the Follett House and James MacDonald's. Succeeding parkers did the same and by 9 a.m. that half of the block was lined with autos parked side-by-side at an angle to the curb. Several police cars were parked across the street. Business went on as usual, but the depot townscape was considerably altered by the new angle of vehicles introduced that day.

"When I came to the market this morning," wrote Stephanie Diccion on the back of an official *Warning Violation*, "I angle parked like the rest in this particular area. I was pleased to see it - so many more spaces available on Sat. a.m. Makes much more sense. When I returned from market, this was on my car. Any chance of getting the north side of E. Cross changed to angle?"

Written on the *Warning Violation* notice was "Violation: No Angle Parking," although there are no signs posted in the area to that effect. Nineteen years ago, the spacing of the parking meters suggested that parallel parking was the mode, but Depot Towners have just parked in whatever fashion seemed to best fit since their removal.

The rest of the *Warning Violation* was printed with slogans like "Buckle Up For Safety," "If You Drink, Designate a Driver!" and little blanks for date, vehicle description and code numbers.

Frog Island Fest's program book offers opportunity for local businesses



When the thousands of jazz fans descend upon the district in June, they'll spend lots of time sitting on the grass on Frog Island waiting for the next performance or planning when they'll return to hear their favorite musicians over the three-day concert weekend.

Known for being good audiences who applaud at the right times, Depot Towners also are aware of each musician and group and constitute a loyal and intelligent following of their favorite styles and genres of music in this artful idiom.

One of the sources for their knowledgeability is the program notes about each group that performs here - found in the 32 -page color program book handed out FREE to each ticket holder as they arrive on Frog Island Friday morning through Sunday night.

Among those musical notes they'll find slick commercials for Depot Town in general and many of the businesses which just happen to be open between the sets on the stage.

Many of these businesses hype special events, products or services which are skewed to tie in with the weekend's theme on Frog Island: *jazz, frogs* or anything *green*. Some say that St. Patrick's Day would have been better celebrated at this time of year, but it's still a good venue for great music.

Ad space in the Frog Island Program Book varies from full-page to business-card size, the cost is reasonable, and the result is immediate and plentiful. Throngs of jazz fans stroll down East Cross and North River Streets with their programs in hand - discovering the district for the first time.

Advertising rates:

Back cover	$350.
Inside front cover	300.
Inside back cover	250.
Center spread (w/ program)	350.
Quarter-page	120.
Half- & full-pages available	.....
Business-card (one col. wide)	60.

Accompanying coupons encouraged

Printed on newsprint by *The Ypsilanti Press*, the Frog Island Jazz Festival program book becomes a momento of the fine music on which many fans collect the autographs of their favorite performers. It's definitely not a throw-away item. Clean-up crews of previous years report never finding one of these *freebies* on the ground after the concert.

Proceeds from the sale of advertising support the monthly publication of *The Depot Town Rag*. Welcome the Frog Island Program Book's sales representatives when they call. It's a promotion for the Jazz Fest *and* for Depot Town businesses.

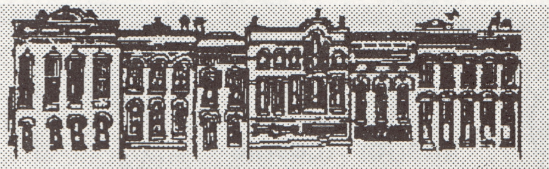
Don't get your hair done just anywhere . . .
. . . get it done at

Richard Reid's Hair Station
50 E. Cross Street • 485-8228
in historic Depot Town

This is a non-smoking environment

Angela, Mary, Joyce, Richard, Lynn

Dateline: Depot Town:



A Neighborhood Forgotten by Time (and Life and Newsweek)

MM at LL's DD (Monroe, Lister, Doo)

Marilyn mavens marvel at the multiplicity of Monroes making up the interior decor of Linda Lister's Depot Doo hair salon. Everybody's got a gimmick, and many Depot Towners follow an ancient advertising tradition of developing a unique and creative logotype for their business. Look at McDonald's arches, Chevrolet's chevron and Henry Ford's signature in the penmanship style of the McGuffy's Reader and you'll see business personalization through recognizable icons.

One sitting in Linda's Depot Doo hair salon will convince the client that Marilyn Monroe is revered in this sanctuary. There's a life-size cardboard cut-out next to which you can have your picture taken; there are countless photographs and even a doctored version of Edward Hopper's painting, *Nighthawks*, with MM sitting in a neon-lit diner with James Dean, Humphrey Bogart and other Hollwood luminaries. The parody steps farther from reality with the addition of real neon, too.

"Let's change the ad that I've been running in *The Rag* for the last year," Linda suggested last month when speaking of her continuous sponsorship. "Can we stick Marilyn in there for a while?"

Other supporters of this monthly effort are encouraged to change their ad copy from time to time - whenever they desire. With this kind of customer recognition, our modest advertising campaigns will reach the most loyal clientele of all - regular Depot Towners who already appreciate our authentic qualities - and those new folks who just aren't accustomed to such personalized treatment out at the malls. Both kinds seem to enjoy that special quality that Depot Town's merchants have to offer.

With such understated personalization, some say even Norma Jean Baker would enjoy the laid back life down here.

What *was* Leon's secret?

Was he just another snake oil salesman passing through the block or was he giving out a cry for help when he wrote so many bad checks and borrowed all those goods and services without returning them?

Leon's Secret Garden mystified many on the block. Some were surprised to find the shop closed for most of its 'Grand Opening' last fall. The sign in the window said 'open,' but the door was locked and the lights were out. Peering through the window, shoppers could see bags of popocorn strewn around the floor of the tiny shop.

Those who were able to get in marveled at the unique flavors and delectable chocolates that Leon Varney was able to create. Still, they wondered, how much popcorn do you have to sell to pay the rent?

A business report of the shop's opening in one of the dailies seemed less a hype for a new business and more a report of mental illness and homelessness. His new shop, Leon hoped, would be the turn-around for him. It represented a fresh start. He was full of hope.

Late fall saw him in top hat and waistcoat, befriending his new neighbors up and down the block. His enthusiasm was contagious and all wished him well in his new venture. Some loaned him store fixtures and others placed items on consignment. Today some feel he took advantage of his neighbors for both goods and good will.

For the New Year's Jubilee, The Secret Garden borrowed much of its decor from other businesses on the street, promising payment after closing that night. The shop has been closed ever since with a sign in the window announcing it was 'Closed for inventory.'

Up and down the street former friends and merchants are taking inventories of their own in bad checks and promises totalling hundreds of dollars in unreturned valuables.

In what has been described as a perfect 'incubator community' for new business people, the Secret Garden seemed to have everything going for it, but much of the capital venture seems to have been financed by the good will and trust of the unsuspecting neighbors.

The unpaid-for ice sculptures on the sidewalk are melted now and the shop is up for rent again. Still - after this short business debacle on this old block - no one is really sure what the Garden's 'secret' was.

At the Ypsilanti Food Co-op...

... Amaranth, an ancient and delicious grain, will be featured in various recipes for this month's edition of *Cooking Encounters.* The Co-op will have information about new food labeling and answer questions on how to read them. Join us on Saturday, March 12th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All interested shoppers are invited to attend an orientation on Saturday, March 12th at 2 p.m. Learn about co-op shopping and membership benefits and receive a 15% discount on purchases made the day of the orientation, or you may apply the time toward a volunteer discount.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op is located at 312 North River Street. For more information call 483-1520.

Basic Flower Arranging Classes

at Hon's Flowers,
46 E. Cross
Tuesday or Thursday evenings
7 - 9 p.m. for four weeks.

You will be taking home an arrangement each week.

Pre-registration required.
Call Mike at 482-2124 for further details.

Depot Doo
Fine Design
Hair Style & Nails
25 East Cross
484-3045

Hon's Flowers
46 East Cross
482-2124

Depot Town Association, Inc., 17 February 1994

January minutes were approved as published.

Treasury holds $7582.97 with $695 paid to WEMU for their share of the 1993 Heritage Jazz Competition. Bills included printing, stamps and utilities.

Rag Report: welcomes new and returning sponsors this month.

Farmers' Market Advisory Board: Gary McKeever reported a review of bylaws, possible extended breezeway as on the depot, other possible expansions, more vendors, need for more handicapped parking. Next meeting is March 10. McKeever and Hamblin await their reappointment by the mayor.

Kiosk updates will take place this week without the hoped-for information from River Street merchants, says president Monaghan.

Banners on light poles still not replaced by DPW. 1. It's too late for the snowflake banners, 2. maybe St. Patrick's Day banners, 3. Brenda Knox may be able to make Frog Island designs for June.

Promotional brochure is at the printer's with 11,000 costing under $600. Reprints are possible, as well.

St. Patrick's Day Parade plans are in place, thanks to the newly-formed Gaelic League of Ypsilanti. Bands, floats, horses, flamingos and pipers are lined up for a noon parade from the water tower to Depot Town.

Caboose has been vandalized, window broken, glass needs replacement. All this followed the cleaning up done by Antique Engine Club members last month. Thanks, anyway.

Heritage Jazz Competition will not take place this year, agree Carolyn McKeever and WEMU co-sponsors. Event needs better funding. Possible spring 1995 event is being discussed.

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival: Need to hear a report on plans being made for this August's event. Will Steve Gross represent DTA?

Frog Island Festival Program made $1000 last year. This year's sales offer 20% cut to salespersons, could net DTA $2000. Paul Fetters will cover the district, Carolyn McKeever and Judi Monaghan will call on former outside advertisers, Tommy Steele will solicit Ann Arbor sponsors.

Parking concession for Frog Island Fest? Interested groups should propose at the March meeting.

DTA will communicate with the Historic District Commission regarding the **condition of the abandoned depot,** calling attention to problems with grass cutting, snow removal, broken windows and dangerous scaffolding.

DTA will communicate with the City Manager regarding the **recent deterioration of conditions at the Recylcing Center** next to Frog Island. Overflowing product, improperly parked semi trailer and litter need to be corrected.

Quarterly Meetings will be revived with March's DTA session being held at 2 p.m. Sunday, 21 March 1994 at the home of Gary and Carolyn McKeever, 1721 Cliffs Drive, on Ford Lake. In addition to watching the ice disappear on the first day of spring, all interested parties are encouraged to bring hors d'oeuvres appropriate for a 'spring rejuvenation' theme for the district.

Monthly recognition revitalized:

Best Yet Award to First of America Bank for locating their ATM in the district.

The Golden Goose to the vandals who have visited their talents upon the Crossing Guard Tower and the Caboose.

Flower arranging classes offered at Hon's Flowers

Hon's new flower designer, Michael Helton, is offering basic flower arranging classes at the shop from which enrollees will take home an arrangement after each week's training session.

They'll be meeting on Tuesdays or Thursdays, depending on interest and time constraints and all sessions will take place right in the arranging studio at the back of Hon's Flowers at 46 East Cross Street.

This could be a perfect opportunity for the many who have raved about Hon's elegant floral designs to learn some of the secrets themselves. Call Mike at Hon's to reserve a space for yourself: 482-6371.

Teachers Shop
& LEARNING CENTER, LTD.
All materials for Classroom & Curricula
Your K12 CONNECTION
(313) 482-6373
15 E. Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Announcing: The revival of Quarterly Meetings of the Depot Town Association, Inc.

For members, sponsors, friends and supporters of the district

2 p.m. Sunday, 21 March 1994

1721 Cliffs Drive, off Grove Road

Celebrate the arrival of spring! Help plan more district promotions.

Bring an hors d'oeuvre and watch the ice go out of Ford Lake!

Strictly local stuff:

March 1994

Depot Towners are invited to participate in any or all of the following activities for the good of this old commercial district:

- **D'town Development Authority**
  8 a.m. Wednesday 3/3
  at The Daily Grind
- **Depot Town Association**
  Quarterly Meeting
  2 p.m., Sunday, 3/21
  1721 Cliffs Drive
- **Depot Town Antique Engine Club**
  7:30 pm Thursdayh 3/24
  at the Freighthouse Coffeeshop

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate. -Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
Judi D. Monaghan, president
c/o The Old Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Hansen's
Standard Printing
35 E. Cross St. • Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
• (313) 483-0339 •
• Wedding Invitations
• Graduation Announcements

Designs On You & Treasures
• Boutique items
• Alterations
• Custom clothing
• Quality designer resale
Brenda Knox, owner
Planning a Fund Raiser?! Let us Plan and Organize a Fashion Show for You!
Also available:
"The Traveling Boutique,"
...a private showing of high fashion jewelry & apparel
Your place or ours
Image consultant:
Carolyn Malone
27 East Cross • 482-2010
Tuesday - Friday 10 - 5:30 Saturdays 10-4:30

Ad Art
313-483-4256
517-592-8708
Design and Layout
Typeset for ads, brochures, books, manuscripts, resumés, catalogues.
Complete production, graphics, consulting

17 things to do when opening a 'cute little boutique'

Our annual home-town drum-thumping campaign

- **Register your DBA** (Doing Business As...) with the Washtenaw County Clerk's office.
- **Avoid free advice.** It's worth exactly what you pay for it. Get a good tax-business-insurance attorney(s) to represent you.
- **Introduce yourself** to the Chamber of Commerce and see what they'll do for you. Pay your dues and serve on their many active committees. Be prepared to work hard both at the shop and with others outside of your district.
- **Know what others in the same business are doing** - and how you can be different and better.
- **Support the organizations** that support you (Don't just pay your DTA dues; initiate new promotions and serve on the action groups).
- **Change your shop window often.** Don't be afraid to be corny. Home-made window designs get lots of attention. Get the kids to decorate every now and then. Play with seasonal themes and district promotions. And get those little tape marks off the glass. Wash the windows every time the sun shines.
- **Keep your lights on at night.** Your best new customers are coming back tomorrow. Your lighted window is your best after-hours advertiser.
- **Advertise everywhere - at first.** Talk to your neighbors about their most effective ad placement. Cooperate in group ads which tout the district. One of our shopkeepers claims his annual advertising budget exceeds his rent.
- **Put tiny sponsorship/ads** in every kid's school program who asks. Donate in-kind merchandise for prizes, awards. Stage whole-family events at your place. Line them up on the sidewalk.
- **Print "in Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town"** on everything you order: ads, business cards, matchbooks, calendars, pocket combs - whatever business promotions you develop. Invoices, ads, stationery and your shop's front door all deserve the name of your business and your unique neighborhood.
- **Keep a mailing list** of your loyal clientele. Get to know them by name. Send them announcements about 'specials,' open houses, expansions, and other promotions you stage.
- **Greet everyone who enters your business.** Say 'hello' and make an eye contact with anyone who comes in your door. Let them know you know they're there.
- **Treat the kids the same as the adults.** They'll be back, too.
- **Keep a snow shovel** by the front door and use it every chance you get. When there's no snow to shovel, start sweeping. It's a great way to announce to the block that you're ready to do business.
- **Act like you own the whole place.** Pick a flower bed of your own. Proprietariness pays off.
- **Post your business hours** in the door window and stick to them.
- **Don't plan to pay yourself** a salary for at least the first year. After that, you can start making lists like this one, yourself.

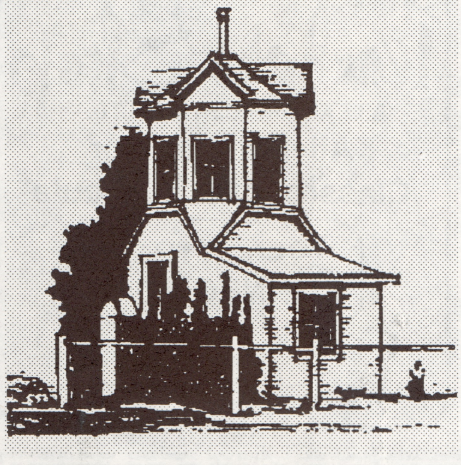
The bad old days

"Going all out for business"

- That's the sign that was painted over the window of Millard Fillmore's Antiques down here in 1976 and it scared the City Fathers to death, since they feared it might be in violation of an ordinance that delineated the rules for announcing a true going-out-of-business sale.

That was in the days when this district was hidden by the legend on the promotional map of Ypsilanti and no one could imagine staying in business here for very long, anyway. The city business community was still waiting for an upsurge of commercial activity that had subsided with World War II and businesses like Miller Motors, City Body, Standard Printing, and the old railroad taverns seemed to be taken for granted as business institutions, but certainly on the wrong side of the tracks.

And, as the district's newest brochure states, "the rest is history. . . "



Why we keep calling this place 'Depot Town'

It wasn't always called this, you know. Although we like to call this a 'Victorian' shopping district, let's get real: Our collection of buildings is certainly nineteenth century, but not what the art historians call High Victorian. Maybe lower-middle Victorian. Or middle-lower.

Some of the folks who remember when today's antiques were *new* say this district was just called 'at the depot' back in those days. Even then, they came down here for a beer, to have dinner, eat lunch, shop for clothes or to get a haircut. They weren't your usual boutique shopper. Most of them didn't have charge accounts anywhere and nobody had 'plastic.'

Depot Town could have been called Cork Town, Shanty Town, Below Town or Up Town, but the ambivalence they felt over being at the train station seemed to carry this common name into today's lexicon of contemporary shopping centers. It certainly is copied in a variety of less authentic situations across the country.

More trendy troupers might have called this place Heritage Village, Historical Corners or Railroad Recherché, but our destination became our designation.

Italianate idolatry just doesn't seem to work in this pocket of practicality so we're stuck with 'Depot Town.' It's plain and honest, just like the folks we serve down here between the river and railroad tracks. Locals use it every chance they get, and they don't bother trying to class it up with a phony accent. Who would believe it, anyway?

WINDING RIVER
Art and Antique *Originals*
Adam Aronson
Acoustic Guitar and Vocals
Friday **March 5th** and **18th**
8-10 p.m. - Wine & Cheese
23 E. Cross, Ypsilanti, 483-3133

James MacDonald's Antiques
29 East Cross • 481-0555
Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing

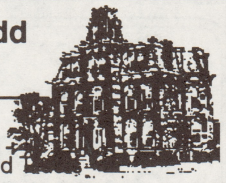
- Custom Draperies
- Vertical Blinds
- 1" Blinds
- Shutters
- Shades
- Wallpaper
- Installation
- Repairs

Esquire Custom Drapery & Blinds SINCE 1953
Ann Arbor 663-7011 • Ypsilanti 482-6338
10 E. Cross St. Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Ike's Depot
483-6300
BARBERSHOP
40 East Cross

Studio 485-2164
Antiques
Interior Accents
19 East Cross Street
Friday 6-9 pm • Saturday 10-5 pm • Sunday 1-5 pm
REMINGTON-WALKER
Design Associates

Freeman Bunting Insurance Agency
107 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
Telephone: 482-4732
• Betty Campbell • Jim Campbell
• Nancy Petosky • Chuck Conklin
• Mary Lou Linke
Security through insurance since 1921

Gregory L. Dodd
Attorney at Law

• Family Law
• Criminal Law
• Probate, Wills, and
• Personal Injury
300 N. Huron, Ypsilanti MI 48197
313-487-2611

Baked On Automotive Finishes • Complete Collision Repair
CITY BODY EST. 1930
CARSTAR
20 E. Cross Street
482-4737 • 482-9353 • Fax: 482-0181
Scott Sobbry Bruce Sobbry

DAILY GRIND
COFFEE HOUSE
• Cappuccino
• Espresso
• Flavored Coffee
• Pastries
• Muffins
• Cocoa-cino
• Scones
• Cheesecake
• Bottled Water
21 East Cross Street **482-0440**
Winter hours: Sun 9-7, M-T 7-7, F 7-9, Sat 8:30-9

Hottest little corner bar & grill in town!
Rated best burgers! - *Detroit Monthly*
SIDETRACK Bar & Grill
• 8 beers on draught
Ypsilanti's Hottest Bar!
56 E. Cross • 483-1035

A Depot Town SAMPLER

Hitting the G-spots down in D-town:

Who are the folks who inhabit this pocket of practical productivity called Depot Town? We asked a national firm famous for losing unpopular elections to probe the average sidewalk gawkers at the crux of East Cross and North River one day last month and give us an up-to-date demographic of who and what we were all about in mid-winter 1994. Here are their conclusions:

Grouches & Geezers - Lots of folks down here have been down here long time. They walk with canes. They grumble about things. They tell stories and they remember how things used to be. They keep us in touch with things from a different end of their bionoculars. They can't remember the names of the new folks, but they can tell you who lived in that apartment or ran that store twenty, thirty, forty years ago. They still come on a regular basis: some daily, some weekly, but regular. They spend most of their time catching their neighbors up on things.

Graduates & Groovers - Basically, this is the mid-forties crowd. Ever since David French's surprise birthday party at the former Depot Exchange, the mid-life-crisis club has been seen as a group to be reckoned with. They're finally through with their degrees, divorces and dependencies and are now letting their hair grow into post-fashion-statement mini-pony-tails. Yesterday's 'Hippies' worry about how their kids are going to turn out, but this is their weekend with the 'ex,' so let's talk about that next week. "Get back to you on that."

Geeks & Galoots - These awkward folks are wondering where that leather shop is and they don't even know the tattoo shop has moved out. They fit the pattern of 'regulars' though, and they're writing an Ibsen-like play about the other quaint Gs on the list. Long time observers note that today's Geeks are tomorrow's Geezers.

Greengrocers & Gourmands - at the Market, the Food Co-op, and in the restaurants , food's getting better on this block. It was always good; now it's fancy. Diners who used to look for a 'boilermaker' or a 'Harvery Wallbanger' are now seeking *pasta primavera*.

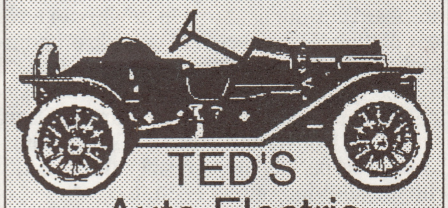
Gonzo Gazeteers - the so-called journalists who emulate Hunter S. Thompson's style and hope to publish their own version of *Fear and Loathing in Ypsilanti*. They're 'doing a color piece' for a tabloid somewhere and can't find as wide a range of hues anywhere else.

Gamins & Grown-ups - from the tiny tots to their grandpersons, all seem to find this block a perfect streetscape for their art.

Ghosts - of at least one hundred and sixty three years of germane gauchos who've passed through here before us. They've left their personae to haunt and hail us from every corner of antquity in this old district. From Gomers to graduates, this block enoys far-flung styles of diversity.

Saturday, 12 March
Cooking Encounters:
Information on new nutrition labelling & amaranth
YPSI FOOD COOP
Sun. 12-5, M,T,Th, F 10-8 Wed. 10-9 Sat. 9-8
312 N. RIVER ST. 483-1520

Ypsilanti's FARMERS' MARKET
3/5 International Crafts Day
Worldwide & handmade
3/12 Old-time Music Jam!
3/19 Youth Sales Day
3/16 Easter Craft Show
Wednesday and Saturday
Open all year in the railroad freighthouse
For information: 483-1480


TED'S
Auto Electric
307 North River • 483-1238

Aubree's
Since 1873
Sticks
OLD TOWN
CAFE
Caddy's GRILL
Saloon, parlor, café & grill